

Enabling Synergy through *Ta'aruf* in Strategic Planning with *Ulul albab* Approach for Masjid Tepi Sungai

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Abstract

This document reports the ta'aruf or ice-breaking session among consultants prior to conducting desktop research and proposal for strategic planning of Masjid Tepi Sungai (MTS). Ta'aruf or introduction enables members of consultants to bridge the gap of differences so that they could work in the consultancy without any barrier. In consultancy, every member plays significant role in making the consultancy rigorous, holistic and complete.

Keywords: Ice-breaking, Teamwork, Strategic Planning

Introduction

Strategic planning requires full efforts from all members. It requires conceptual mind and perspectives to visualise the future direction by taking into account the past, present and future constructs and variables.

This document reports the ta'aruf or ice-breaking session among consultants prior to conducting desktop research and proposal for strategic planning of Masjid Tepi Sungai (MTS). Ta'aruf or introduction enables members of consultants to bridge the gap of differences so that they could work in the consultancy without any barrier. In consultancy, every member plays significant role in making the consultancy rigorous, holistic and complete.

The context of the study is within Masjid Tepi Sungai vicinity. Masjid Tepi Sungai symbolises traditional and conservativeness. The area is occupied by various races of Islamic faith. Majority nationality is Malaysians. There are other nationalities such as Indonesians, Bangladeshis, Pakistani, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Siamese, British, Irish, and Swedish.

Masjid unites all races and nationalities under one faith with Tawhidic in thinking, in mind and in action (Sarif, 2014, 2015a, 2015b).

Literature Review

In any work team, each member plays significant role (Campion, Papper & Medsker, 1996; Cohen & Bailey, 1997; Barrick, et al, 1998; Gill et al, 2020). The ability signals the capability to perform and personality provides the power to perform continuously (Barrick et al, 1998). The team itself requires own system and identity (Campion et al, 1996). There is a need for all members to participate in the team (Gill et al, 2020).

Ice-breaking provides the simulation for members to get to know and to get rid of differences. There is a need to break the ice or barriers for consolidation and unification (Chlup & Collins, 2010; Gully et al, 2002; Mathieu et al, 2008; Bauchat & Seropian, 2020).

In Tawhidic approach of team work, ice-breaking enables for getting to know each member (ta'aruf) (Sarif, 2014). There are two drivers to reap the taaruf outcomes, namely mutual cooperation (taawun) (Sarif, 2015a; Mazlan & Khairuldin, 2018), and fastabiqul khairat (good deeds championing) (Sarif, 2015b). More importantly, the effectiveness of the teamwork process (Sundstrom et al, 1990; Wibisono, 2019; Mazzarol & Reboud, 2020; Naweed, 2020).

Findings and Discussion

The findings are based on several agenda. Each agenda has activity and discussion.

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
Taaruf Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The members are given certain element for taaruf to make the session run smoothly. The elements are nickname, hometown, department and kulliyyah.• One of the members is from kulliyyah of engine that take monir course in kulliyyah of economics and management sciences.
Assignment Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The assignment of the member to the required position is by volunteerism basis. The finalised structure is as below: Leader : Syed Bilal Shah Assistant Leader : Nurul Imanina binti Ahmad Sukri Secretary : Afifah Syahirah binti Abdul Manan
Arising matters	Full name, phone number and matric number is collected to make future reference. The team decided to make WhatsApp group to make communication easier

Conclusion

Ice-breaking is essential in any teamwork. Getting to know allows for adjustment among members. The synergy that is resulted from the teamwork is powerful.

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